

**VACSB Public Comments to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Health and Human Resources Regarding Waiver Re-design
Delivered by Jennifer Faison, Executive Director, VACSB
26 JAN 2016**

The Virginia Association of Community Services Boards (VACSB) is appreciative of this opportunity to provide comments regarding the status of Virginia's Waiver Re-design efforts.

I am grateful for the progress that has been made since the last General Assembly session and I believe that DBHDS, DMAS and the stakeholder community have an acute appreciation for the amount of work that will need to be done between now and 01 July 2016 to achieve a smooth transition to the newly re-designed Waivers. I also believe that we are committed to walking down the same pathway to ensure that the individuals supported by the Intellectual and Developmental Disability (I/DD) services system will not be negatively impacted during the transition period.

DMAS and DBHDS have worked closely with the VACSB Developmental Services Council (DS Council) and the Executive Directors of the 40 CSBs and have been successful in moving the conversation from the broad concepts of three new Waivers and the services and supports that will be included in them to true operational and logistics concerns. The DS Council has developed a detailed list of questions and concerns and has identified the appropriate entity to respond in kind with answers.

We are a mere 5 months away from implementation and there are many tasks, large and small, that need to be completed between now and then but recognize that in some ways 01 July 2016 is really a starting point for some aspects of implementation. For example, it is the starting point for data collection regarding how individuals are utilizing the new Waivers and concomitant services as well as data collection regarding whether or not the changes we will have made are having the intended consequence of aligning financial incentives for provider development of more integrated and independent supports and services with consumer demand for same. By the beginning of FY2020, we should be able to make educated assumptions regarding both our progress and system-wide trends, and we will be able to make any necessary course corrections at that time, all supported by data.

I would like to emphasize that Waiver re-design is supposed to make a more flexible system that is responsive to the needs of today's individuals with I/DD and their families but it is also supposed to address the waiting list issue. We are supportive of the Governor's budget with regard to slots but would also urge members of this committee to support the budget amendments that would create 800 additional slots for the Individual and Family Supports Waiver each year of the biennium as a way to further advance the goal of significantly reducing the waiting list.

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